

MOVCAC – Jackson County Excess Death Analysis

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Based on population numbers provided by [West Virginia Demographics](#), Jackson County ranks twentieth in the state with 27,593 total residents. MOVCAC has performed numerous detailed analyses on Wood County excess death. Via that analysis, we confirmed that 2021 saw the highest levels of death experienced in recent history. Based on that analysis and the publication of the 2021 vital statistics by the WV DHHR, we are finally able to provide an analysis of this excess death phenomenon for each county in West Virginia.

As you can see from the two tables below, Jackson County’s experience with excess death mirrored the total West Virginia trend. The record for total death during the 11-year span under analysis was set in 2020 only to be shattered in 2021:

Year	Total WV Death	Percent Change
2011	21,870	
2012	21,651	-1.00%
2013	21,846	0.90%
2014	22,164	1.46%
2015	22,643	2.16%
2016	22,721	0.34%
2017	23,290	2.50%
2018	23,462	0.74%
2019	23,291	-0.73%
2020	26,108	12.09%
2021	29,402	26.24%

Year	Jackson County Death	Percent Change
2011	315	
2012	343	8.89%
2013	328	-4.37%
2014	341	3.96%
2015	364	6.74%
2016	348	-4.40%
2017	393	12.93%
2018	384	-2.29%
2019	345	-10.16%
2020	397	15.07%
2021	459	33.04%

Data source - https://dhhr.wv.gov/HSC/SS/Vital_Statistics/Pages/Vital_Statistics.aspx

Note – While each of the other years in the tables above are compared to the prior year, 2021 is compared to the pre-pandemic year of 2019. It makes no sense to compare 2021 to an already pandemic-effected elevated death total in 2020.

Although the pandemic year saw a rise in death in Jackson County, the real wave occurred in 2021. As with the vast majority of counties in West Virginia, Jackson County easily set the record for death in 2021. Why are we normalizing all of this excess death? Why is this not being investigated?

The age-ranged tables that follow were created by compiling each year’s age-ranged data provided on the “Age at Death by County of Residence” table in the appendix section of each year’s [Vital Statistics Report published by DHHR from 2011 to 2020](#). The 2021 report no longer contains these detailed schedules. We contacted the DHHR for the 2021 details and were provided a spreadsheet containing the county level detail.

Age Ranges of Concern

The following are the tables for age ranges with the most alarming trends culminating in 2021. Please note, many of these deaths are occurring in our working age citizens. Shouldn’t this be investigated by our elected officials?

(*)Note – For each of the age ranges below, the two highest years in regards to total death are identified by the bold boxes. The percent change column is comparing totals for each year to the prior year for years 2011 through 2020. For the 2021 percent change calculation, the next highest death total is identified and used as the comparison year.

Age Range 55-64			Age Range 65-74		
Year	Total Death	Percent Change	Year	Total Death	Percent Change
2011	31		2011	55	
2012	47	51.61%	2012	57	3.64%
2013	38	-19.15%	2013	70	22.81%
2014	47	23.68%	2014	43	-38.57%
2015	44	-6.38%	2015	60	39.53%
2016	43	-2.27%	2016	76	26.67%
2017	53	23.26%	2017	62	-18.42%
2018	54	1.89%	2018	75	20.97%
2019	55	1.85%	2019	71	-5.33%
2020	53	-3.64%	2020	70	-1.41%
2021 *	81	47.27%	2021 *	88	15.79%

The 55-64 age range saw death decline in the pandemic year. What happened in 2021 to these working age Jackson County citizens to cause death to rise to an unprecedented 81? How is the fact that 55-64-year-olds saw their death rise by 47.27% in 2021, over the previous record set in 2019, not leading every news report and political campaign in Jackson County? Why are we setting records for death in the year after the pandemic – and why is there dead silence about it?

For the 65-74 age range, the pandemic year of 2020 again saw a decrease in death. Shouldn't we be concerned that 2021 set the record for death in this age range at 88?

Why are we seeing so many death records set in 2021?

If you are concerned about this catastrophic rise in Jackson County death (as documented by your state), please consider sharing this information with state leaders responsible for representing your population.

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Please note – After the election, your delegate or senator may change. After November 5, 2024, please refer to the new rosters as published on the legislature’s website –

House Roster - <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/house/roster.cfm>

Senate Roster - <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Senate1/roster.cfm>